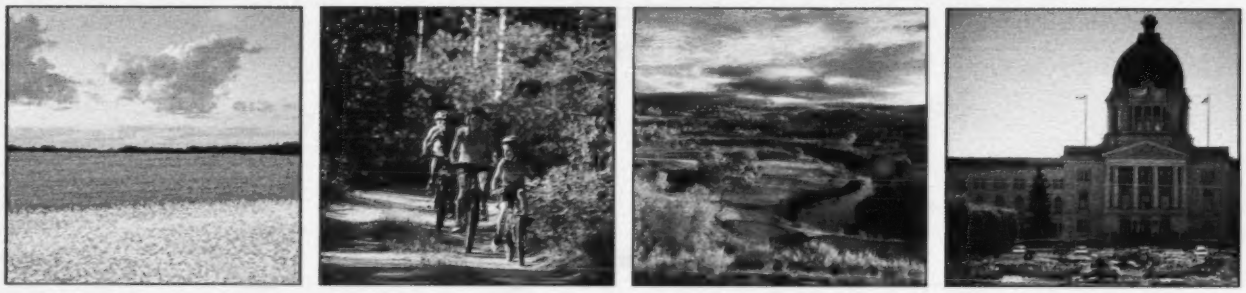
Ministry of Government Relations



Plan for 2017-18

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Government of Saskatchewan

Table of Contents

Statement from the Minister 1

Response to Government Direction 2

Operational Plan 3

Highlights 8

Financial Summary 9

Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Donna Harpauer

Minister of Government Relations and Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

I am pleased to present the Operational Plan of the Ministry of Government Relations for 2017-18. The plan is the "roadmap" for the work our Ministry will undertake in the year ahead to help our clients and partners build stronger communities and regions. Saskatchewan has a solid economic foundation that is the envy of other jurisdictions, but our province currently faces fiscal pressures as a result of downturns in our resource industries. Government Direction and Budget for 2017-18 is focused on *Meeting the Challenge*, finding the right balance between addressing the deficit and ensuring that Saskatchewan people continue to have the programs, services and infrastructure that they need. Government will deliver sustainable, high quality public services in the most cost-effective way possible.

The Ministry of Government Relations works collaboratively with government partners at the federal, municipal and community levels. Through teamwork and a shared vision, we help those we serve realize the opportunities of growth and deal with growth's challenges. Together, our governments are helping enhance the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

Our Ministry is committed to reporting on our progress in meeting the goals, strategies and actions outlined in this plan, and we will provide a full accounting of those efforts in the Ministry's 2017-18 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Meeting the Challenge* of the current fiscal situation. In so doing, Government will continue to support and encourage economic growth, and ensure government services are affordable and sustainable in the long term. This will include pursuing transformational change so that Saskatchewan people have the programs, services and infrastructure they need now and in the future.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people
Meeting the challenges of growth
Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people
Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2017-18 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry is responsible for municipal relations, public safety, and First Nations, Métis and northern affairs. The Ministry engages a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to: plan for and respond to the opportunities and challenges of growth; provide leadership and direction so that integrated public services are available to communities and their residents; and support responsible governments.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: build relationships and develop partnerships with and between municipalities, First Nations and Métis communities, industry, and the federal government to support provincial priorities

Ministry Goal

Residents, partners, and communities are engaged, can effectively govern, and are well positioned to benefit from the opportunities and address the challenges of economic and population growth

Strategy

Enhance regional and municipal planning to address economic growth opportunities and challenges

Key Actions

- Lead a regional planning dialogue to discuss successes and challenges with planning commissions and other regional planning groups.
  - Develop workshop or training resources based on the information gathered at the regional planning dialogue.
- Review and refresh the Rapid Growth Communities initiative so that it remains relevant to municipal stakeholders.
- Develop educational resources focused on key municipal planning issues and building capacity.
- Review and improve the processes used to evaluate infrastructure funding proposals to ensure alignment with provincial and local priorities.

Performance Measures

Planning districts established

The Ministry encourages municipalities to engage in regional planning activities such as: establishing planning districts, helping build municipal sector capacity, mediating inter-municipal disputes and delivering cost-effective services and infrastructure. By March 31, 2018, two new planning districts will be established.

Percentage of the population living in municipalities with official community plans

Official Community Plans (OCPs) set out policies to govern land use and development, outline the municipalities' economic growth strategies, encourage environmental stewardship, plan sustainable infrastructure, support recreational opportunities and address community interests. By March 31, 2018, 90 per cent of Saskatchewan citizens will live in a municipality that has an OCP.

Ministry Goal

Outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and northern communities are improved

Strategy

Deliver programs and support the Government in meeting its commitments that align with First Nations, Métis, and northern needs

Key Actions

- Lead coordination of Government's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Engage and collaborate with partners to advance priority actions.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people | Meeting the challenges of growth | **Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people** | Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: be an enabling partner in building safe, healthy, and vibrant communities

Ministry Goal

Saskatchewan communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies

Strategy

Continually improve provincial emergency preparedness, mitigation, interoperability, response and recovery

Key Actions

- Implement a provincial disaster mitigation strategy to help identify, address and prioritize Saskatchewan disaster mitigation needs.
- Review and enhance emergency plans and infrastructure for communities in northern Saskatchewan.
- Facilitate the development of support services and/or mutual aid agreements for First Nations emergency services, including participation in the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunication Network, dispatching and data collection systems.

Strategy

Engage with and provide education and training to communities in order to improve community safety

Key Actions

- Work with municipalities to identify challenges and opportunities in planning for and responding to emergencies.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Environment to establish fire management and containment plans for northern communities.
- Work with partners to provide fire prevention programming and training for pre-school and elementary school students to increase fire safety awareness.
- Review subdivision applications for mitigation from potential disasters and require disaster mitigation planning to be included within new official community plans.

Performance Measures

Number of sites approved with conditions to prevent development on hazardous lands

Requiring subdivision developments to have proper disaster mitigation standards in place before sites are approved will limit impacts from potential disasters.

Number of communities participating in SaskAlert program

SaskAlert is the Government of Saskatchewan's emergency public alerting program that provides critical information on emergencies in real time. Tracking the number of communities participating in the program will display program outreach, impact, and room for improvement.

Ministry Goal

Communities are supported to meet their needs and growth

Strategy

Provide long-term, predictable funding to municipalities to support provincial interests in municipal priorities, including municipal infrastructure

Key Actions

- Provide the equivalent of one full point of the Provincial Sales Tax to the municipal sector via municipal revenue sharing.
- Partner with the federal government and the municipal sector to ensure prudent and effective delivery of federal/provincial infrastructure funding.
- Partner with northern stakeholders, including First Nations and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, to pursue strategic infrastructure improvements that increase cost-effectiveness and enhance public safety.

Strategy

Enable and promote effective and safe building facilities and equipment

Key Action

- Pursue the harmonization of the building codes adoption process with other western provinces.

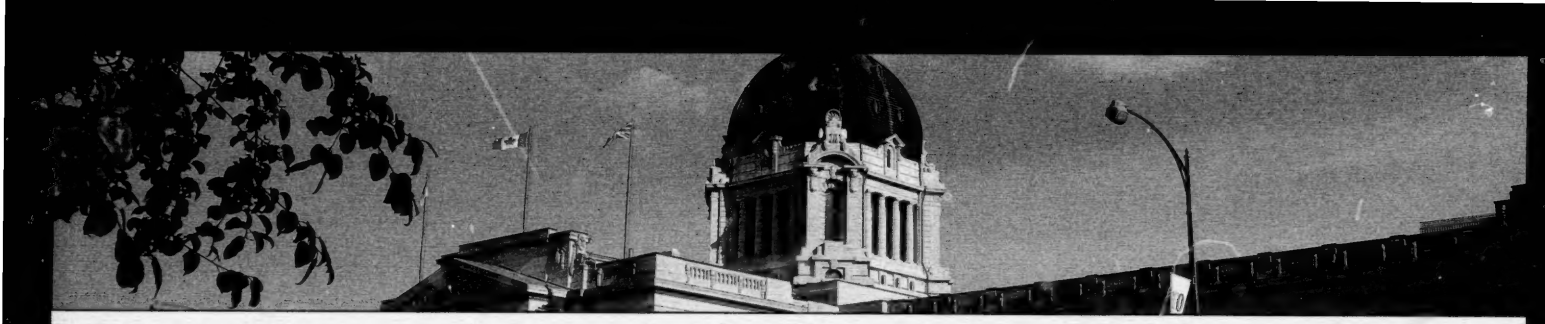
Performance Measures

Annual municipal funding

Funding will be provided to municipalities through several programs to support provincial interests in municipal priorities, including municipal infrastructure and revenue sharing.

Percentage of population covered by building bylaws

Municipalities with building bylaws in place represent 86.4 per cent of the province's population. Ongoing efforts by the Ministry, as well as inter-ministry and agency co-ordination, will increase the implementation by municipalities of building bylaws approved under *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*.



Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the Ministry's mandate and the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Support responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

A modern policy, legislative, and regulatory framework that supports the Ministry's mandate

Strategy

Ensure a fair and effective property tax regime

Key Actions

- Undertake municipal review of industry financial contributions to rural municipalities (RM), rural road infrastructure, and RM accountability that provide options to Government for changes in legislation, regulations or programs.
- Redirect education property tax collected by municipalities to the provincial government in order to simplify administrative processes for school divisions.

Strategy

Legislative and regulatory changes are prepared to address provincial and Ministry priorities and to respond to sector and public concerns

Key Actions

- Review and improve municipal and public safety legislation and regulations to meet the evolving needs of municipal, public safety and other stakeholders, the Province and the public.
- Deliver strategic amendments to municipal legislation and regulations that position municipalities to better plan for and deal with growth and development issues and challenges.
- Review Ministry business-related regulations to keep current, remove red tape, and ensure labour and trade mobility.

Ministry Goal

Government obligations are met through the implementation of the Duty to Consult policy and Treaty Land Entitlement agreements

Strategy

Coordinate consistent Government wide implementation of the Duty to Consult policy and Treaty Land Entitlement agreements

Key Actions

- Deliver workshops and comprehensive training materials to assist ministries, Crowns, agencies and other partners and stakeholders to improve understanding and implementation.
- Provide policy advice and develop process related resources that address challenges to implementation.

Performance Measure

Number and type of events held

Conduct information sessions and workshops to increase awareness of Government's obligations to the Duty to Consult and Treaty Land Entitlement implementation processes.

Highlights

Key announcements from the Ministry of Government Relations' 2017-18 Budget include:

- $257.8* million for municipal revenue sharing funding, consisting of:
  - $165.7 million to urban municipalities;
  - $72.8 million to rural municipalities; and,
  - $19.2 million to northern municipalities.
- $277.5 million for municipal infrastructure programs, consisting of:
  - $201.1 million to meet project commitments under various infrastructure programs, including:
    - $109.5 million under the Clean Water Wastewater Fund;
    - $67.5 million under the New Building Canada Fund; and,
    - $24.1 million under the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund.
  - $15.0 million to support Saskatoon's North Commuter Parkway Bridge; and,
  - $61.4 million in flow-through municipal infrastructure funding provided by the Gas Tax Program.
- $76.7 million for gaming agreements, consisting of:
  - $53.9 million for the First Nations Trust, which supports the First Nations Addictions and Rehabilitation Foundation, and distributes funding to First Nations communities in Saskatchewan;
  - $2.9 million for the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, which supports Métis economic development; and,
  - $19.9 million for Community Development Corporations, which support social, economic and business development proposals located in communities surrounding Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority casinos.

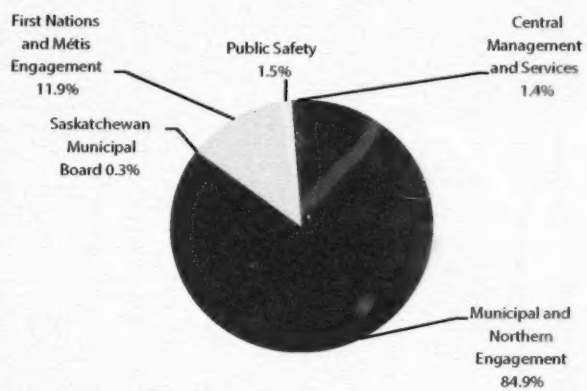
* Due to rounding, numbers do not add up precisely.

Financial Summary

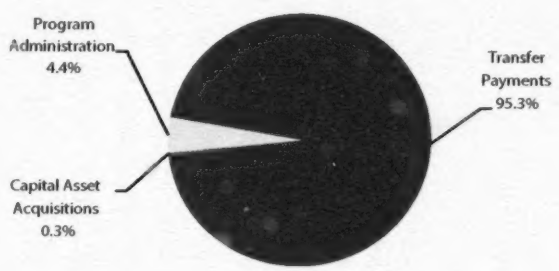
2017-18 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	9,260
First Nations and Métis Engagement	79,807
Municipal and Northern Engagement	570,904
Saskatchewan Municipal Board	1,809
Public Safety	10,298
Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network	---
Total Appropriation	**672,078**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(1,780)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	2,895
Total Expense	**673,193**
FTE Staff Complement	**237.1**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry Spending by Subvote


First Nations and Métis Engagement 11.9%
Public Safety 1.5%
Central Management and Services 1.4%
Saskatchewan Municipal Board 0.3%
Municipal and Northern Engagement 84.9%

Ministry Spending by Classification



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/government-relations